

Church of the Covenant

Boston, MA



Juneteenth Sunday

Celebration of Holy Communion

Presbyterian Church (USA) and United Church of Christ

[ZOOM LINK \(click here\)](#)



Church of the Covenant
Juneteenth Sunday
Celebration of Holy Communion
June 19, 2022, 10:30 am
[Zoom Link](#)

Welcome & Announcements

One: Peace be with you.
Many: **And also with you.**

Prelude *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* arr. Fred Bock

Call to Worship

One: The God of the Exodus, of Moses, of Miriam, of Ruth, is great and greatly to be praised.
Many: **God is worthy of our praise.**
One: Come, let us remember the great things God has done for us.
Many: **Let us not neglect to teach our children the greatness of God.**
One: Let us not forget our past and those who have gone before us.
Many: **We remember the cradle of civilizations in Mother Africa, the ancestors, our history; and we name our future.**
One: Let us lift up our voices in song, and open our hearts in gratitude.
Many: **Let us greet God with anticipation and praise.**

Kindling the Christ Light

Opening Hymn NCH 610 *My Eyes Have Seen the Glory* Julia Ward Howe, 1860

My eyes have seen the Glory of the coming of the Lord
Who is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored
And has loosed the fateful lightning of a terrible swift sword;
God's truth is marching on.

Refrain

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah!
God's truth is marching on.

God has been there in the watchfires of of a hundred circling camps
Where they built a sacred altar in the evening dews and damp
I can read the righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
God's day is marching on. *Refrain*

God has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat
And is sifting out the hearts of all before the judgment seat
O be swift, my soul, to answer and be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. *Refrain*

In the beauty of the lillies, Christ was born across the sea;
With a glory in whose bosom that transfigures you and me.
As Christ died to make us holy, let us live to make all free;
While God is marching on. *Refrain*

Prayer for Grounding in God's Grace

adapted from the African American Lectionary, 2009

One: As we commemorate the emancipation of enslaved Africans on June 19, 1865 in Texas, let us not forget the history of those forced into slavery by the Atlantic slave trade and the long lasting effects of this peculiar institution.

Many: **Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and liberation through Jesus Christ.**

One: Let us continue to emphasize the importance of education and the advancement of African Americans in this nation.

Many: **Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and liberation through Jesus Christ.**

One: God has granted us freedom, let use it wisely, guard it carefully, and embrace it totally.

Many: **Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and liberation through Jesus Christ.**

One: Allow this Juneteenth celebration to serve as a reminder of the unfinished work of freedom and equality in this country.

Many: **Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and liberation through Jesus Christ.**

One: Let all people, of all religions, creeds and backgrounds—elected officials, community leaders and neighbors—come together and acknowledge the period in our history that shaped and continues to negatively influence American society.

Many: Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and liberation through Jesus Christ.

One: We continue to pray in faith for the deep conversion of others to be sensitized to the conditions that African Americans have endured and continue to experience such that they understand why racism and bigotry cannot have the last word.

Many: Thanks be unto God for granting freedom and liberation through Jesus Christ.

One: As God calls us to be ‘repairers of the breach’ offering a pathway toward reparation and restoration, let us continue to hope for a better tomorrow while remembering the hurt and pain of the past are still with us today.

Many: We will not forget “Middle Passage.” We will continue to tell the story of bondage that gave way to freedom, both physically and spiritually. We shall forever strive to advance the kin-dom of God through liberation and excellence.

One: Let us now listen to the intimations of God in silent prayer...

Listening to God in Silent Prayer

Assurance of God’s Grace

One: O God we remember that you are the One Who Repairs and Restores; you are the God that maintains liberty, justice and righteousness for all. Hold us close to your heart so that we always act in a way that is pleasing to you.

Many: In Jesus Christ we are set free and made whole. Alleluia, Amen!

Sung Response:

Easter Celtic Alleluia

Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia!

Reading from Scripture:

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of Lord is upon me because God has anointed me; God has sent me to bring Good News to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to proclaim the year of God's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Most High, to display God's glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I, the God of Hosts, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom God has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in God; my whole being shall exult in my God, for she has clothed me with the garments of salvation; she has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the Earth brings forth its shoots,

and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

One: God is still speaking, the word of God,
Many: **Thanks be to God.**

Sung Response:

Easter Celtic Alleluia

Sermon

“You Mean It or You Don’t”

Call to Offering

Online Giving Option: <http://www.cotcbos.org/give.html>

Click on Give Now, then choose Pledges or Gifts-General.

Offertory

What a Covenant

arr. Bill Wolaver

Doxology

Though what we have in truth is small,
God’s grace shall be enough for all.
So as we bless and break this bread,
Each heart be filled, each mouth be fed.

Prayer of Dedication

Celebrations and Concerns

One: God, in your grace,
Many: **Receive our prayer.**

Pastoral Prayer

Celebration of Holy Communion

Invitation

Communion Hymn

I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, some of these days.
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table,
I'm gonna eat at the welcome table, some of these days.

The Great Thanksgiving

One: May God be with you!

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Children of God, let us lift up our hearts!

Many: **We open our hearts to the Spirit who fills us with hope.**

One: Let us give thanks to God our light.

Many: **It is right for us to offer our thanks and praise to God.**

One: It is certainly most right for us to thank and praise you God. So with your people here on earth, with our ancestors and the great company of heaven, we glorify your name, praising you together saying:

Many: **Holy, holy, holy One, God of heaven and earth. All creation is full of your love and grace. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of peace. Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Holy are you, O God, maker of heaven and earth; the One who sent Jesus to dwell amongst us, the great Liberator and Emancipator, the one lifts up our heads when we are down and carries us when we can no longer bear the burdens alone, Jesus the Christ who taught us to pray:

The Prayer of Jesus

(in unison)

**Our Creator, who is in heaven,
hallowed be you name.
Your realm of liberty, freedom and justice come,
your will be done—
on Earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us of our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the Kin-dom,
the power and the glory forever.
Amen.**

Sharing of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Post Communion Prayer

Charge and Benediction

Exchange of the Peace

(Please exchange greetings of Christ's peace and reconciliation)

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Worship Participants

Preacher – Rev. Joshua Lawrence Lazard

Minister of Music – Tom Handel

Liturgist – Tim Groves

Lector – So Jung Kim

Cantor – Andrea Ehrenreich

Digital Minister – Trudi Veldman

WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE COVENANT! We are so glad to have you worshipping with us today! If you are new to our community, we hope you will feel at home and welcomed during this service. If you have any questions about who we are as a community of faith, please reach out to a member of staff in the chat.

UPCOMING WORSHIP: Please join us each Sunday at 10:30am as we come together in community to pray, sing, share celebrations and concerns, and hear God's still-speaking Word proclaimed in these Hybrid services (in-person and Zoom options). [Zoom Link for each service.](#)

- Sunday, June 26, Rev. Rob preaching
- Sunday, July 3, **ZOOM ONLY**, Rev. Rob preaching, Communion

SUMMER SOLSTICE SUNSET EVENSONG: Tuesday, June 21, 7:30-8:30pm
Join our Climate Jubilee Team as they host this first ever, simple outdoor prayer gathering along the sacred shores of the Quinobequin (settler named Charles) River to give thanks to God for this longest day as we together watch the sun set. [RSVP here to join us on the Solstice.](#)

CLIMATE ACTION THIS WEEK: Mass Interfaith Power & Light is encouraging us to take part in an environmental and climate justice rally at the State House **Tuesday, June 21.** It's co-sponsored by a number of groups, including the MA Sierra Club, Mass Power Forward, and others. **It's 4-6 PM, and then there will be a interfaith potluck on the Boston Common afterwards.....just perfectly timed for us to rally, join the potluck, and then attend Covenant's Summer Solstice service!** [Here's the link to the Facebook event to register.](#)

LIFE ALIVE BRUNCHES: Our 20s30s40s group will be meeting on Saturday, June 25 at 11am at Friendly Toast. Monthly this group meets for food & fellowship, if you want more information, please reach out and email Rev. Joshua joshua.lazard@cotcbos.org

BIBLE STUDY WEDNESDAYS: Our weekly morning Bible Study is each Wednesday morning on Zoom at 9:15am. We are studying the Gospel of John. If you'd like more information or want to be on the list to get regular reminders & Zoom info, contact Jan Gough at revjangough@gmail.com.

SEASON OF THE SPIRIT EVENING PRAYERS 6-6:30pm: Join us for our weekly Wednesday evening prayers w/ intentional liturgy, contemplative song, psalms & sharing of prayers with our siblings from Newton Presbyterian [on Zoom](#).

CYCE UPDATES: Our regular CYCE programs are now paused for the summer. We send CYCE updates by email, so let Kate know if you would like to be on our list. Have a wonderful summer!

JUBILEE JAUNTS: As Spring is upon us again, our Climate Jubilee Team has also brought our Jubilee Jaunts back! Let's get out into the beauty of God's natural world in the gift of our watershed as it is now, and find peace and blessing from it. Mark your calendars now for these simple jaunts for an hour or two together in community being blessed by Creation.

- Sunday June 26, 1:30pm Arboretum with Nancy Stockford & Mark Huston: [Sign up here](#)
- Sunday July 24, 3:00pm Middlesex Fells with Syd Smith, park at the Flynn ice rink in Medford: [Sign up here](#)
- *Want to add a jaunt?? Email [Betty](#) and we'll add it to the list!*

CLIMATE JUBILEE JAUNT SUNDAY JUNE 26 ARNOLD ARBORETUM 1:30pm: As part of the Climate Jubilee Team's continued goal of being outside and appreciating nature *as it is now* with all of you, please join Nancy Stockford and Mark Huston in a walk in the [Arnold Arboretum](#) in Jamaica Plain, part of Boston's Emerald Necklace. [Sign up here](#), and Nancy will send you directions, meetup location, and parking and public transportation information. [Contact Nancy](#) with questions. And for those of you in our diaspora, please take a walk on the 26th, send us pictures, and be with us in solidarity with nature!

POSTING FULL SERVICE RECORDINGS/ CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS ONLINE: We will be posting the entire service, including our sharing of celebrations and concerns, that is livestreamed online on our [Worship Recordings Page](#). Please let us know if you have any questions.

WEEKLY CALENDAR Click [here](#) to view the weekly calendar of events.



Church of the Covenant
Boston Massachusetts

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Worship at Church of the Covenant is the heart and soul of our life together as a community of faith. Since 1932 we have been a federated church, maintaining membership in the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church (USA) and welcoming pilgrims and inquirers from all traditions to our life and work. Through our prayer and praise, in our concerns and celebrations, by word and sacrament, art and silence, we seek empowerment, together and individually, as a covenant people, for the work of Christ.

Jesus taught that the Spirit invites all people, including society's outcasts, to enjoy seats at God's table. This congregation seeks to demonstrate that vision by welcoming individuals and families without regard to race, gender identity, age, physical/mental condition, or sexual orientation. We rejoice in the presence of children among us, and we strive to include them in our ministry. We maintain ties of faith with the Church of the Poor in the community of the Sweet Name of Jesus, in Northwestern Nicaragua.

We believe God's blessings are found in marriage equality for all. Thus, we joyfully welcome the opportunity afforded us by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church USA to join couples of all sexual orientations in fully legal and holy marriage.

In our worship we use language and imagery that reflect the wonderful diversity of the image of God in humanity and all of creation; that transcend the exclusive language of the church's past. And as stewards, we seek to live into the Spirit's blessing as we move in solidarity on this shared and sacred, common home we call earth. We invite you to join us in the journey toward God's justice and peace for all of Boston and beyond!

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Rob Mark, *Lead Pastor*
Rev. Joshua Lazard, *Associate Pastor*
Thomas Handel, *Minister of Music*
Bill Brown, *Building Manager*
Rev. Kate Carlisle, *CYCE Coordinator / Parish Administrator*
Nancy Stockford, *Financial Secretary*
Fred Lopes, *Sunday Sexton*
Alan Lane, *Food Cupboard Coordinator*

CHURCH OFFICERS

Liz Vizza, *President of the Corporation*
Trudi Veldman, *Clerk of the Council*
Anita Gram, *Moderator of Board of Deacons*
Faith Perry, *Treasurer*